

WATER CONSERVATION IN YOUR ORGANIC VEGETABLE GARDEN

- **Increase the humus content in your soil** to retain moisture & allow the moisture to soak in.
- **Reduce evaporation:**
 - Mulch with 2 to 4 inches of organic materials.
 - Regular hoeing creates layer of soil mulch. .
 - 'Living Mulch': denser planting (possible in raised beds) so leaves touch at maturity.
- **Create deep root systems:**
 - Use healthy transplants (not too long in pot; no circling roots).
 - Double-dig beds; water reserve in subsoil.
 - Water less often for longer.
- **Don't waste water on the wrong crops:**
 - Grow crops at appropriate seasons.
 - Choose appropriate varieties.
 - Weed vigilantly.
- **Utilize the rain:**
 - Grow winter food crops.
 - Grow winter green manure.
 - Use rain to moisten compost piles.
- **Water efficiently:**
 - Computerized automatic irrigation.
 - Drip irrigation
 - Group plants of like water requirements together.
 - Do overhead watering in early morning.
 - Learn to judge your plants water needs: deep rooting vegetables need watering less often than shallow rooted ones.

Rooting Depths of Mature Vegetables		
Shallow 18-24"	Moderately deep 36-48"	Deep Over 48"
Cabbage family Celery Corn Garlic Onions Lettuce Potatoes Radish spinach	Beets Beans: bush & pole Carrots Cucumbers Eggplant Peas Peppers Summer squash	Pumpkins Tomatoes Watermelon Winter squash



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ORGANIC VEGETABLE GROWING RESOURCES (SILICON VALLEY)

Vegetable Growing / Gardening Advice

- Mastergardeners.org (then click on your county)
- Master Gardeners Hot line for Santa Clara county 408-282-3105 (9.30am-12.30pm)
- lpm.ucdavis.edu (for insects, diseases & pests)

Seeds

- Bountifulgardens.org
- Botanicalinterests.com
- Cooksgarden.com
- Johnnyseeds.com
- Seedsofchange.com
- Territorialseed.com
- Reneesgarden.com

Organic gardening supplies /soil amendments

- Commongroundinpaloalto.org
- Harmonyfarm.com
- Peacefulvalleyfarmsupply.com
- Lyngsogarden.com
- Wheelerfarms.net composted horse manure; delivery only. Minimum 3 yards.
- SMART station, 301 Carl Rd, Sunnyvale; composted green waste. Free to residents of Sunnyvale, Mountainview, Los Altos, & Palo Alto.

Composting resources (including bins)

- Reducewaste.org
- Rot line 408-918-4640

Soil Testing

- Soilandplantlaboratory.com
- Timberleafsoiltesting.com

Raised Bed structures

- Sunset.com (then type raised bed in the search); directions to build your own wood 8ft x 4ft.
- Gardeners.com
- Composters.com/raised-garden-beds.php
- Bluegrassgardenbeds.com

Books

How to Grow More Vegetables by John Jeavons

Sunset Western Garden Book

Rodale's Illustrated Encyclopedia of Organic Gardening.

Good Bug Bad Bug by Jessica Walliser